

CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE

This Performance Certificate (“Certificate”) is executed on **October 8, 2020**, by and between the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (the “Authorizer”), and **Gem Prep Meridian South, LLC** (the “School”), an independent public school organized as an Idaho nonprofit corporation and established under the Public Charter Schools Act of 1998, Idaho Code Section 33-5201 *et seq.*, as amended (the “Charter Schools Act.”)

RECITALS

WHEREAS, on **May 15, 2020** the Authorizer received a petition to establish a new charter school; and

WHEREAS, on **August 13, 2020** the Authorizer approved the new charter school petition;

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the foregoing recitals and mutual understandings contained herein, the Authorizer and the School agree as follows:

SECTION 1: TERMS OF AUTHORIZATION

- A. Establishment of School.** The School is hereby authorized to implement the program described in the Charter, attached to this Certificate as Appendix C and incorporated herein by this reference. Any significant changes to any section of the Charter, including the educational program, facilities plan, financial plan, or the management plan, during the School’s pre-operational period or first operational term shall be treated as an amendment in accordance with the Authorizer’s policy.
- B. Term of Agreement.** This Certificate is effective as of **October 8, 2020** if properly executed. The school shall be pre-operational from the effective date of this Certificate through June 30, **2022**. The school’s operational term shall be from July 1, **2022** and end on June 30, **2027**. Subsequent terms of operation may be issued by the authorizer in accordance with Idaho Code and PCSC policy.
- C. Pre-Opening Requirements.** The School shall not commence instruction until all pre-opening requirements have been completed to the satisfaction of the Authorizer. Pre-opening requirements are attached as Appendix B and incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- A. School Mission.** The mission of the School is as follows: **To prepare students for success in college by providing a high quality, personalized, relevant and rigorous education through exceptional teaching, innovative uses of technology and partnerships with families.**
- B. Grades Served.** The School may serve students in grades **K** through **12**.

C. Design Elements. The School shall implement and maintain the following essential design elements of its educational program:

- a. **High Expectations and Rigor.** The school will be focused on 21st-century learning and critical thinking skills, as well as Common Core-alignment. Students will be prepared for post-secondary education through dual-credit courses taken during high school and the alignment of curriculum with Common Core standards. The quality and rigor of student work is framed by competency-based standards planning and challenging learning objective and assessments.. This shall be verified by annual reporting of dual credit course enrollment count and utilizing third party reviewer reports for all online programs to assure they adhere to the common core standards.
- b. **Personalization.** The school's instructional model is built on the belief that each student brings unique strengths and challenges to their learning experience and must be supported accordingly. Student learning includes adaptive online learning programs, working toward informed post-secondary goals, and utilizing flexible time at the secondary level for self-directed learning. In the K-6 model, students often use a station rotation model, and the 7-12 model will use a flexible college-prep learning model. Differentiated instruction will occur at these pathways-online instruction, as well as elective courses. Teachers also do targeted small group instruction as a form of intervention and acceleration. This shall be verified by an annual review by the curriculum committee of online courses and programs offered for the upcoming school year to assure programming meets the personalization needs of students.
- c. **Data.** Gem Prep will be grounded in the importance of using data to drive instruction. The school will use formative assessment and other data to continually adjust instruction and necessary interventions.. This shall be verified by weekly reviews of college readiness quiz data (CRQ) and annual reviews of state testing results.
- d. **Innovation.** Very much related to the above, the importance of continual improvement and innovation will be a focus for Gem Prep. The organization will constantly review performance data and make adjustments to the school model as necessary. This shall be verified by an annual review of instructional strategies and modifications to said strategies to meet the needs of students.

D. Standardized Testing. Students of the School shall be tested with the same standardized tests as other Idaho public school students.

SECTION 3: SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

A. Governing Board. The School shall be governed by a board (the “Charter Board”) in a manner that is consistent with the terms of this Certificate, so long as such provisions are in accordance with state, federal, and local law. The Charter Board shall have final authority with respect to the School’s operation, and shall have the responsibility of overseeing academic achievement, financial health, and operational management of the School. The Charter Board shall also be responsible for maintaining and enforcing a compliant board and providing overall board

stewardship for the School.

- B. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.** The articles of incorporation and bylaws of the Charter Board shall provide for governance of the operation of the School as a nonprofit corporation and a public charter school, and shall at all times be consistent with all applicable rules, laws, and this Certificate. The School shall notify the Authorizer of any modification to the articles of incorporation or bylaws within five (5) business days of approval by the Charter Board.
- C. Charter Board Composition.** The composition of the Charter Board shall at all times be determined by and consistent with the articles of incorporation and bylaws, and all applicable law, rule, and policy. The Charter Board shall notify the Authorizer of any changes to its composition and provide an amended School Leadership Roster within five (5) business days of it taking effect.

SECTION 4: AUTHORIZER ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Oversight Allowing Autonomy.** The Authorizer's Role shall be to evaluate the School's performance outcomes according to this Certificate and the Performance Framework, and shall be to provide compliance oversight. The Authorizer shall comply with the provisions of Charter Schools Act and the terms of this Certificate in a manner that does not unduly inhibit the autonomy of the School.
- B. Charter School Performance Framework.** The Charter School Performance Framework ("Performance Framework") is attached and incorporated into this agreement as Appendix B. The Performance Framework shall be used to annually evaluate the School's academic achievement, board stewardship, operational management, and financial health. The specific terms of the Performance Framework are determined by the Authorizer and shall be binding on the School.
- C. Identified Comparison Group.** For purposes of evaluating the School against the metrics and measures established in the Performance Framework, the School's comparison group shall be identified as described below and shall be established for the length of the Certificate term:
 - 1. The School's comparison group shall include all schools in the following school district: **West Ada School District, #2.**
- D. Authorizer to Monitor School Performance.** The Authorizer shall monitor and report on the School's progress in relation to the indicators, measures, metrics, and targets set out in the Performance Framework. A formal report of the School's academic, financial, and operational performance shall be published by the Authorizer annually. Data necessary to conduct this evaluation will be collected throughout the year. Additional reviews may be necessary if compliance concerns arise.
- E. School Performance.** The School shall meet standard on all measures of the Performance Framework included herein. The Authorizer shall renew any charter in which the public charter school met all of the terms of its Certificate, including all appendices, at the time of renewal.
- F. Required Reports.** The School shall prepare and submit reports as required by the Authorizer's policy.

- G. Authorizer's Right to Review.** The Authorizer maintains the right to request and review additional documentation if such becomes necessary in the course of regular oversight duties or to investigate the validity of a compliance concern. The Authorizer shall conduct its reviews in a manner that does not unduly inhibit the autonomy granted to the School.
- H. Site Visits.** The Authorizer may conduct site visits in accordance with the Authorizer's policy. Reports from any site visit shall be made available to the School and shall be included in the School's annual Performance Report.

SECTION 5: SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- A. In General.** The School and the Charter Board shall operate at all times in accordance with all federal and state laws, local ordinances, regulations and Authorizer policies applicable to charter schools.
- B. Maximum Enrollment.** The maximum number of students who may be enrolled in the school shall be 676 Enrollment shall be limited to the following:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-2025	2025-2026
Total Enrollment Not to Exceed:	312	454	536	676

- C. Equitable Enrollment Procedures.** The School shall make student recruitment, admissions, enrollment, and retention decisions in a nondiscriminatory manner and without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sex, marital status, religion, ancestry, disability or need for special education services. In no event may the School limit admission based on race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender, income level, athletic ability, or proficiency in the English language. If there are more applications to enroll in the School than there are spaces available, the School shall select students to attend using a random selection process that shall be publicly noticed and open to the public.
- D. School Facilities.** The School shall operate at the following location(s): Lake Hazel Rd and Locust Grove Rd, Meridian, ID. Address TBD, The School shall provide the Authorizer with facilities documentation, including occupancy permits, fire marshal reports, building inspection reports, and health department reports for any facility newly occupied by the School, and any remodeling or construction project for which such documentation is necessary in accordance with Authorizer policy and Administrative Rule.
- E. Attendance Area.** The School's primary attendance area shall be used for the purposes of determining applicability of this enrollment preference category. The School's primary attendance areas is as follows: From the centerline of the road, starting at the corner of E. Victory Rd and Meridian Rd, following Victory Rd east to the corner of Victory Rd and S. Cloverdale Rd. South on Cloverdale Rd to the junction with W. Hidden Valley Rim Rd. Then west following the southern boundary of the West Ada School District to Meridian Rd. Then north on Meridian Rd back to the corner of Meridian Rd and E. Victory Rd.

- F. Staff.** Instructional staff shall be certified as provided by rule of the state board of education. All full-time staff members of the School shall be covered by the public employee retirement system, federal social security, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation insurance, and health insurance.
- G. Alignment with All Applicable Law.** The School shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. In the event any such laws, rules, or regulations are amended, the School shall be bound by any such amendment upon the effective date of said amendment.

SECTION 6: SCHOOL FINANCE

- A. General.** The School shall comply with all applicable financial and budget statutes, rules, regulations, and financial reporting requirements, as well as the requirements contained in the School's Performance Framework incorporated into this agreement as Appendix B.
- B. Financial Controls.** At all times, the School shall maintain appropriate governance, managerial procedures, and financial controls which shall include, but are not limited to: (1) commonly accepted accounting practices and the capacity to implement them (2) a checking account; (3) adequate payroll procedures; (4) procedures for the creation and review of monthly and quarterly financial reports, which procedures shall specifically identify the individual who will be responsible for preparing such financial reports in the following fiscal year; (5) internal control procedures for cash receipts, cash disbursements and purchases; and (6) maintenance of asset registers and financial procedures for grants in accordance with applicable state and federal law.
- C. Financial Audit.** The School shall submit audited financial statements from an independent auditor to the Authorizer no later than November 1 of each year.
- D. Annual Budgets.** The School shall adopt a budget for each fiscal year, prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. The budget shall be in the Idaho Financial Accounting Reporting Management Systems (IFARMS) format or any other format as may be reasonably requested by the Authorizer.

SECTION 7: TERMINATION, NON-RENEWAL AND REVOCATION

- A. Relinquishment.** Should the School choose to relinquish its Charter before the expiration of the Certificate, it may do so upon written notice to the Authorizer. In such a case, the Authorizer's closure protocol shall begin immediately following written notification.
- B. Nonrenewal.** The Authorizer may non-renew the Charter at the expiration of the Certificate if the School failed to meet one (1) or more of the terms of its Certificate, including the Performance Framework. The School may appeal a decision to not renew directly to the state board of education.
- C. Revocation.**

The School's Charter may be revoked if the School fails to have sufficient cash on hand as required by the Charter Schools Act. In such event, the Authorizer shall consider whether to revoke the School's Charter at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The decision shall be made at that time. The School may appeal a decision to revoke directly to the state board of education.

- D. Closure.** The Authorizer's closure protocol shall begin immediately after a decision to relinquish is made by the Charter Board, or a decision to revoke or non-renew or is made by the Authorizer. Closure protocol shall begin regardless of whether the School appeals the decision. In the event that closure protocol begins, the School shall cease operations no later than the following June 30th. Closure protocol shall only cease if the state board of education overturns the Authorizer's decision.

SECTION 8: MISCELLANEOUS

- A. No Employee or Agency Relationship.** None of the provisions of this Certificate will be construed to create a relationship of agency, representation, joint venture, ownership, or employment between the Authorizer and the School.
- B. Additional Services.** Except as may be expressly provided in this Certificate, as set forth in any subsequent written agreement between the School and the Authorizer, or as may be required by law, neither the School nor the Authorizer shall be entitled to the use of or access to the services, supplies, or facilities of the other.
- C. No Third-Party Beneficiary.** This Certificate shall not create any rights in any third parties, nor shall any third party be entitled to enforce any rights or obligations that may be possessed by either party to this Certificate.
- D. Amendment.** This Certificate may be amended by agreement between the School and the Authorizer in accordance with Authorizer policy. All amendments must be in writing and signed by the School and the Authorizer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Authorizer and the School have executed this Performance Certificate to be effective **October 8, 2020**.

Alan Reed

Alan Reed (Oct 14, 2020 11:28 MDT)

Chairman, Idaho Public Charter School Commission

Dennis Turner

Chairman, Gem Innovation Schools of Idaho, Inc Governing Board of: **Gem Prep Meridian**
South, LLC

Appendix A: Performance Framework
Appendix B: Pre-Opening Requirements
Appendix C: Charter
Appendix D: Pre-Opening Conditions

Appendix A: Performance Framework



IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK



Idaho Public Charter School Commission
304 North 8th Street, Room 242
Boise, Idaho 83702

Phone: (208) 332-1561
pcsc@osbe.idaho.gov

Alan Reed, Chairman
Jenn Thompson, Director

ACADEMIC MEASURES

All School Measures

1. Math Proficiency
2. ELA Proficiency
3. Math Growth
4. ELA Growth
5. Literacy Proficiency
6. College and Career Readiness

Identified Comparison Group Options:

- All schools in the traditional district in which the school is located as reported on the Idaho Report Card.
- A custom group of individual schools from across Idaho that have similar demographic attributes to the charter school.
- All alternative schools in Idaho.

1. MATH PROFICIENCY

Proficiency Rate: The PCSC will use the proficiency rates as determined by the Idaho Accountability Framework and reported via the Idaho Report Card.

Math and ELA Proficiency Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school's proficiency rate is greater than one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group, or the school's proficiency average is in 90 th percentile of all Idaho schools.
Meets Standard	The school's proficiency rate is equal to the mean or falls between the mean and one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group.
Approaches Standard	The school's proficiency rate falls between the mean and one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school's proficiency rate is more than one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group, OR the school has been identified for comprehensive or targeted support for three consecutive years as per the Idaho Consolidated Plan.

2. ELA PROFICIENCY

Proficiency Rate: The PCSC will use the proficiency rates as determined by the Idaho Accountability Framework and reported via the Idaho Report Card.

Math and ELA Proficiency Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school's proficiency rate is greater than one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group, or the school's proficiency average is in 90 th percentile of all Idaho schools.
Meets Standard	The school's proficiency rate is equal to the mean or falls between the mean and one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group.
Approaches Standard	The school's proficiency rate falls between the mean and one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school's proficiency rate is more than one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group, OR the school has been identified for comprehensive or targeted support for three consecutive years as per the Idaho Consolidated Plan.

3. MATH GROWTH

Growth Rate: The PCSC will use the proficiency rates as determined by the Idaho Accountability Framework and reported via the Idaho Report Card.

Growth Rubric Math	
Exceeds Standard	The percentage of students in grades 3-8 who did not achieve proficiency on the current year's assessment but who did make adequate growth toward proficiency is greater than one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group, OR the school's growth rate is in the 90 th percentile of all Idaho public schools.
Meets Standard	The percentage of students in grades 3-8 who did not achieve proficiency on the current year's assessment but who did make adequate growth toward proficiency is equal to the mean or falls between the mean and one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group, OR the growth rate increased by at least 10% over the previous year.
Approaches Standard	The percentage of students in grades 3-8 who did not achieve proficiency on the current year's assessment but who did make adequate growth toward proficiency falls between the mean and one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group.
Does Not Meet Standard	The percentage of students in grades 3-8 who did not achieve proficiency on the current year's assessment made adequate growth toward proficiency is more than one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group.

4. ELA GROWTH

Growth Rate: The PCSC will use the proficiency rates as determined by the Idaho Accountability Framework and reported via the Idaho Report Card.

Growth Rubric ELA	
Exceeds Standard	The percentage of students in grades 3-8 who did not achieve proficiency on the current year's assessment but who did make adequate growth toward proficiency is greater than one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group, OR the school's growth rate is in the 90 th percentile of all Idaho public schools.
Meets Standard	The percentage of students in grades 3-8 who did not achieve proficiency on the current year's assessment but who did make adequate growth toward proficiency is equal to the mean or falls between the mean and one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group, OR the growth rate increased by at least 10% over the previous year.
Approaches Standard	The percentage of students in grades 3-8 who did not achieve proficiency on the current year's assessment but who did make adequate growth toward proficiency falls between the mean and one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group.
Does Not Meet Standard	The percentage of students in grades 3-8 who did not achieve proficiency on the current year's assessment made adequate growth toward proficiency is more than one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group.

5. COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR): Alternative schools will be evaluated based on their 5-Year ACGR. All other schools will be evaluated based on their 4-Year ACGR.

Graduation Rate: The PCSC will use either the 4-Year ACGR or the 5-Year ACGR as determined by the Idaho Accountability Framework and reported via the Idaho Report Card.

C&C Readiness Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school's 4-Year or 5-Year ACGR is greater than one standard deviation above the identified comparison group, OR the school's ACGR is 100%.
Meets Standard	The school's 4-Year or 5-Year ACGR is equal to the mean or falls between the mean and one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group.
Approaches Standard	The school's 4-Year or 5-Year ACGR falls between the mean and one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school's 4-Year or 5-Year ACGR is more than one standard deviation below the identified comparison group.

6. LITERACY PROFICIENCY

Literacy Proficiency Rate: The PCSC will use the proficiency rates as determined by the Idaho Accountability Framework and reported via the Idaho Report Card.

Literacy Proficiency Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school's proficiency rate on the spring administration of the statewide literacy assessment is greater than one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group; OR The fall to spring change in proficiency rate is 20% or greater.
Meets Standard	The school's proficiency on the spring administration of the statewide literacy assessment is equal to the mean or within one standard deviation above the mean of the identified comparison group; OR the school's fall to spring change in proficiency rate is between 10%-19%.
Approaches Standard	The school's proficiency on the spring administration of the statewide literacy assessment falls within one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school's proficiency rate on the spring administration of the statewide literacy assessment is more than one standard deviation below the mean of the identified comparison group.

OPERATIONAL MEASURES

BOARD STEWARDSHIP

1. Governance Structure
2. Governance Oversight
3. Governance Compliance

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

4. Student Services
5. Data Security and Information Transparency
6. Facility and Services
7. Operational Compliance

BOARD GOVERNANCE

1. Governance Structure Rubric

Data Sources: Board bylaws, articles of incorporation, and any courtesy letters or notifications issued to the school by entities responsible for oversight or enforcement.

Governance Structure Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	Board Bylaws are compliant with ID law. Articles of Incorporation are current. No investigations were conducted into either ethical behavior or conflict of interest regarding any board director. The board did not experience an Open Meeting Law violation that needed to be cured this year.
Approaches Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was taken within 30 days.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was not taken within 30 days.

2. Governance Oversight Rubric

Data Sources: Board meeting minutes, school policies, continuous improvement plan (or other strategic planning evidence if submitted by the school), and verification of submission of annual administrator evaluation.

Governance Oversight Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	The board reviews academic data in a timely and thorough manner. The board reviews financial reports in a timely and thorough manner. The board maintains compliant policies. The board engages in strategic planning. The board conducts a compliant annual evaluation of their school leader and/or management organization.
Approaches Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was taken within 30 days.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was not taken within 30 days.

3.

Governance Compliance Rubric

Data Sources: If applicable, courtesy letters/notifications of concerns, investigation, or findings issued to the school by entities responsible for oversight or enforcement, and any documentation of correction provided by the school.

Governance Compliance Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	The PCSC did not issue any courtesy letters or notify an external investigative body of compliance concerns this year.
Approaches Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was taken within 30 days.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was not taken within 30 days.

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

4. Student Services Rubric

Data Sources: If applicable, any notifications or courtesy letters issued by the SDE or SBOE which required corrective action with regard to the school's ELL, SPED, or College and Career Readiness programs, as well as any documentation submitted by the school evidencing correction.

Student Services Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	The school's English Language Learner program is in good standing. The school's Special Education program is in good standing. The school's college and career readiness program is in good standing.
Approaches Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was taken within 30 days.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was not taken within 30 days.

5. Data Security and Information Transparency Rubric

Data Sources: periodic desk audit of school website, and any formal notifications regarding data security or public records compliance.

Data Security and Information Transparency Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	The school's website is compliant with I.C. 33-133(7) (data collection, access, and security policy); I.C. 33-320 (continuous improvement plan); and I.C. 33-357 (expenditures updated monthly, contracts, performance reports, and annual budgets). The school did not experience any issues involving data security this year. The school did not experience any compliance issue regarding public records requests this year.
Approaches Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was taken within 30 days.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was not taken within 30 days.

6. Facility and Services Rubric

Data Sources: Verification of meal service program and transportation services via public documents and/or school website, and any notifications of concerns regarding occupancy or safety issued to the school by entities responsible for oversight or enforcement.

Facility and Building Services Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	The school's occupancy certificate is current. The school maintains current safety inspections and drills. The school provides daily transportation to students in compliance with Idaho Code. The school provides a compliant lunch program.
Approaches Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was taken within 30 days.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was not taken within 30 days.

7. Operational Compliance Rubric

Data Sources: Periodic observation of enrollment lottery, and if applicable, any corrective action plans issued by the SDE not related to special education, ELL, or college and career readiness (as these are captured elsewhere), or formal notification of late reports or enrollment violations.

Operational Compliance Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	Required reports are submitted accurately and on time. The school maintains a compliant enrollment process. No correct action plans were issued by the SDE this year.
Approaches Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was taken within 30 days.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school was informed of or became aware of non-compliance and action to correct the issue was not taken within 30 days.

FINANCIAL MEASURES

NEAR TERM HEALTH

1. Current Ratio
2. Unrestricted Days Cash
3. Default
4. Enrollment Variance

SUSTAINABLE HEALTH

5. Total Margin and 3Yr Aggregated Total Margin
6. Cash Flow and Multi-Year Cash Flow
7. Debt Service Coverage Ratio
8. Debt to Asset Ratio
9. Financial Compliance Rubric

NEAR-TERM HEALTH

1. Current Ratio

Calculation: Current Assets divided by Current Liabilities

Data Source: Annual Fiscal Audit Report

Current Ratio Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has a current ratio of more than 1.5
Meets Standard	The school has a current ratio of at least 1.1 (or between 1.0 and 1.1 with a 1 year positive trend)
Approaches Standard	The school has a current ratio of between .9 and 1.0 (or between 1.0 and 1.1 with a 1 year negative trend)
Does Not Meet Standard	The school has a current ratio of .9 or less.

2. Unrestricted Days Cash

Calculation: Unrestricted Cash divided by ((Total Expenses minus Depreciation Expense) / 365)

Data Source: Annual Fiscal Audit Report

Unrestricted Days Cash Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has more than 60 days cash on hand
Meets Standard	The school has 60 days cash OR between 30 and 60 days cash and one-year trend is positive. Note: Schools in their first or second year of operation must have a minimum of 30 days cash.
Approaches Standard	The school has between 15-30 days cash OR between 30-60 days cash, but one-year trend is negative.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school has fewer than 15 days cash on hand.

3. Default

Calculation: No calculation.

Data Source: Annual Fiscal Audit Report, Terms of Debt, Other Formal Notifications Received by School.

Default Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for at least 3 consecutive years.
Meets Standard	The school is not in default of any financial obligations, and did not experience any instances of default during the fiscal year. Financial obligations include, but are not limited to, making payments to vendors and utility services on time, complying with all loan covenants, filing any reports required for maintenance of grants or philanthropic funds, meeting all tax obligations, and operating without financial judgements or property liens.
Approaches Standard	The school experienced one or more instances of minor default during the fiscal year (such as making late payments); however, the school is not currently in default of any financial obligations.
Does Not Meet Standard	School is currently in default of financial obligations.

4. Enrollment Variance

Calculation: Enrollment Projections (as submitted to the PCSC in July) divided by Mid-Term ADA.

Data Source: Mid-Term ADA report

Enrollment Variance Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for at least 3 consecutive years.
Meets Standard	Enrollment variance is equal to or greater than 95%.
Approaches Standard	Enrollment variance was between 90% and 95%, OR the enrollment variance was less than 90% and the school provided a mid-year amended budget evidencing at least a break-even budget based on mid-term enrollment and any resulting revenue adjustments.
Does Not Meet Standard	Enrollment variance was less than 90% and the school did not provide evidence of mid-year budget amendments or operational changes evidencing at least a break-even budget based on mid-term enrollment and any resulting revenue adjustments.

SUSTAINABLE HEALTH

5. Total Margin and 3Yr Aggregated Total Margin

Calculation:

Most Recent Year Total Margin: 2019 Net Income divided by 2019 Total Revenue

3-Year Aggregated Total Margin: (2019 Net Income +2018 Net Income +2017 Net Income) divided by (2019 Total Revenue +2018 Total Revenue +2017 Total Revenue)

Data Source: Annual Fiscal Audit Report

Total Margin and 3-Yr Aggregated Total Margin	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	Aggregated 3-year Total Margin is positive and the most recent year Total Margin is positive OR Aggregated 3-Year Total Margin is greater than -1.5 percent, the trend is positive for the last two years, and the most recent year Total Margin is positive. Note: For schools in their first or second year of operation, the cumulative Total Margin must be positive.
Approaches Standard	Aggregated 3-Year Total Margin is greater than -1.5 percent, but trend does not "Meet Standard".
Does Not Meet Standard	Aggregated 3-Year Total Margin is less than or equal to -1.5 percent OR the most recent year Total Margin is less than -10 percent.

6. Cash Flow and Multi-Year Cash Flow

Calculation (example years are included as reference):

Most Recent Year Cash Flow: 2020 Cash and Investments minus 2019 Cash and Investments

Previous Year Cash Flow: 2019 Cash and Investments minus 2018 Cash and Investments

Multi-Year Cash Flow: 2020 Cash and Investments minus 2018 Cash and Investments

Data Source: Annual Fiscal Audit Report

Cash Flow and Multi-Year Cash Flow	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	Multi-Year Cumulative Cash Flow is positive and Cash Flow is positive in the most recent year is positive, OR Multi-Year Cumulative Cash Flow is negative, but documentation identifies this as a result of a one-time, planned purchase (such as a facility remodel). Note: Schools in their first or second year of operation must have positive cash flow.
Approaches Standard	Multi-Year Cumulative Cash Flow is positive, but Cash Flow is negative in the most recent year.
Does Not Meet Standard	Multi-Year Cumulative Cash Flow is negative and no documentation identifies this as a result of a one-time, planned purchase.

7. Debt Service Coverage Ratio

Calculation:

If school owns its facility or if the school leases its facility and the lease is capitalized: $(\text{Net Income} + \text{Depreciation Expense} + \text{Interest Expense}) \div (\text{Principal} + \text{Interest} + \text{Lease Payments})$

If school leases its facility and the lease is not capitalized: $(\text{Facility Lease Payments} + \text{Net Income} + \text{Depreciation Expense} + \text{Interest Expense}) \div (\text{Principal} + \text{Interest} + \text{Lease Payments})$

Data Source: Annual Fiscal Audit Report

Debt Service Coverage Ratio Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school's debt service coverage ratio is 1.5 or greater OR the school operates debt-free.
Meets Standard	Debt Service Coverage Ratio is between 1.1 and 1.49
Approaches Standard	The school's debt service coverage ratio is between .9 and 1.09
Does Not Meet Standard	Debt Service Coverage Ratio is less than .9

8. Debt to Asset Ratio

Calculation: $\text{Total Liabilities} \div \text{Total Assets}$

Data Source: Annual Fiscal Audit Report

Debt to Asset Ratio	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 consecutive years, OR the school operates debt-free.
Meets Standard	The school's Debt to Asset Ratio is less than 0.9
Approaches Standard	The school's Debt to Asset Ratio is between 0.9. and 1.0
Does Not Meet Standard	The school's Debt to Asset Ratio is greater than 1.0

9. Financial Compliance Rubric

Calculation: Total Liabilities divided by Total Assets

Data Source: Annual Fiscal Audit Report, Desk Audit of Policies, Other Formal Notifications Received by School

Financial Compliance Rubric	
Exceeds Standard	The school has met standard for 3 or more consecutive years.
Meets Standard	Accounting Practices: finances are managed in compliance with GAAP. Financial Transparency: expenditures and contracts are posted on the school's site. Internal Controls: the school's internal controls are compliant.
Approaches Standard	The school was informed of non-compliance with accounting practices, financial transparency, or internal controls, and prompt action to correct is in evidence.
Does Not Meet Standard	The school is operating under a notification of fiscal concern or a notification of possible or imminent closure OR the school was informed of non-compliance with accounting practices, financial transparency, or internal controls and the issues were not corrected within 30 days.

Appendix B: Pre – Opening Requirements

New School Pre-Opening Requirements

The following items must be collected by the PCSC for your school's files.

ITEM	COLLECTION BY PCSC
Performance Certificate Executed	
Bylaws Executed	
Articles of Incorporation	
Conflict of Interest and/or Code of Ethics Statement	
Facility Lease or Mortgage Executed	
Annual Board Approved Budget	
501c3 Approval Letter	
Org Chart	
Board Member and School Leader Contact Information (PCSC Dashboard)	
Emergency Incident Team Communication Plan	

The school has successfully completed all of the tasks as outlined in the accompanying task lists.

ITEM	PCSC Verification
Enrollment is Sufficient for Operation	
Meeting 1 Tasks (see "Pre-Opening Checklist", "Meeting 1 - October" tab)	
Meeting 2 Tasks (see "Pre-Opening Checklist", "Meeting 2 - December" tab)	
Meeting 3 Tasks (see "Pre-Opening Checklist", "Meeting 3 - February" tab)	
Meeting 4 Tasks (see "Pre-Opening Checklist", "Meeting 4 - April" tab)	
Meeting 5 Tasks (see "Pre-Opening Checklist", "Meeting 5 - June" tab)	
Final Tasks and Facilities Visit (See "Pre-Opening Checklist", "Final Facilities Visit - August" tab)	

Certificate is hereby given that all facts and representations on this assurance document are true and correct.

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Charter School Representative

Signature

Date

Printed Name of PCSC Representative

Signature

Date

Appendix C: Charter

Gem Prep: Meridian South



Charter Petition

Grades K-12

Proposed Opening: August 2022

Primary Attendance Area:

Submitted to Idaho Public Charter Commission: 5-15-2020

Primary Liaison: Josh Femreite

jfemreite@geminnovation.org

Board Chair: Dennis Turner

PO Box 86

Deary, Id 83823

208-877-1513

Non-Discrimination Statement:

Gem Prep does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Any variance should be brought to the attention of the administration through personal contact, letter, phone, or email.

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Executive Summary

Mission Statement: To prepare students for success in college by providing a high quality, personalized, relevant and rigorous education through exceptional teaching, innovative uses of technology and partnerships with families.

Vision Statement: Gem Prep will be a K-12, personalized, college preparatory school. Through personalization, and by leveraging best practices in technology, the school will engage students in 21st-century work, using competencies necessary for productive lives as citizens in a dynamic, increasingly competitive global world.

Summary: Gem Prep is a college preparatory school. Every program, K-12, at Gem Prep is designed and aligned to prepare students for success in college and beyond. The philosophical premise is that students need a tailored and rigorous instructional environment to help them develop the knowledge, skills, and competencies that will assist them in their success in college and their future.

Gem Prep's instructional methodology is to provide access to content designed to prepare students for the rigors of college-level instruction. Because the elementary grade levels include foundational content, Gem Prep utilizes technology to adapt instruction to student needs, while simultaneously providing them with real-time feedback and remediation. In the upper elementary grades, students have increased opportunities for student-centered learning, teamwork, and collaboration. Students take increased ownership of their learning as they prepare for their transition to the 7th grade. As students progress to secondary grade levels, the focus of student competency development shifts toward independence, autonomy, and exposure to new skills. Students engage in courses in person, online, and through video teleconference to gain skills of professional communication and collaboration with colleagues (other students and teachers) in remote geographic locations. Secondary students also participate in college preparatory courses, which are dedicated to the development of competencies such as mindsets, communication skills, and habits of success.

Community Need and Interest: Across the State of Idaho there is an urgent need for more high-quality educational options that prepare students for post-secondary success. Although there are some high performing charter and traditional schools, most of these schools are concentrated in a few areas, are overenrolled, and/or have long waitlists. Idaho's population has one of the lowest percentages of college degrees. According to the [Lumina Foundation](#), only three other states have a lower college attainment rate than Idaho.

Student Outcome Expectations: Gem Prep expects students to graduate ready for the rigors of college with both the content knowledge and competencies necessary for success. Graduates will be effective problem solvers, life-long learners, self-motivated, and responsible citizens.

Section I: Educational Programs

Educational Philosophy

The world is changing rapidly, and education needs to keep pace with the challenges and advancements students will meet in the real world. Most Idaho students simply are not prepared for success in college, but Gem Prep seeks to make a change in Idaho. Through the use of adaptive technology coupled with highly qualified teachers who use data to personalize instruction, Gem Prep is developing students who have the knowledge, characteristics, competencies, and mindsets that they will need in order to be successful in college and the next-generation workplace.

Gem Prep's education model encompasses a graduate profile developed around the competencies, skills, and characteristics necessary for tomorrow's leaders. Gem Prep students will graduate with early college success in high school and with the experiences and accomplishments in the areas of real-world communication, rigorous academics, and superior independence and motivation.

Proficiency in reading, writing, and math has traditionally been the entry-level threshold to the job market, but the 21st century's global economy will require a workforce with a different set of skills in order to be competitive. Future employees will need a more diverse skillset combining learning skills, literacy skills, and life skills. Students will need to be exceptional critical thinkers, problem solvers, innovators, communicators, and collaborators in order to be competitive in tomorrow's marketplace.

The [IBE Workforce Needs Survey](#) indicates that students need to be prepared to use technology appropriately and strategically to solve problems, find information, evaluate sources, make connections, forge deeper understandings, and effectively communicate with others. The survey further indicates that students need to be able to ask and answer challenging questions, solve problems, and reflect critically on their work and performance to inform future progress. Students also need to demonstrate resilience and perseverance when faced with challenges and to collaborate productively with others from different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

Student Academic Achievement Standards

In addition to the outcomes and targets included in the Performance Certificate, Gem Prep will track the following outcomes to ensure student's progress:

- **Gem Prep's 7th-12th grade students typically take one or more advanced opportunities courses each school year**, setting their trajectory for early college success in high school. Completion of this goal will be tracked through the Student Information System (SIS), which tracks enrollment data, student schedules and grades. Students receiving coursework in above-grade-level content is part of how Gem Prep fulfills its mission of providing students a rigorous education.
- **Gem Prep high school students may take courses from a teacher or professor who is physically located in a different building than the student.** This allows student access to courses and teachers not available in their own building. This is tracked through enrollment

data, student schedules and teacher assignments. As stated in the mission statement, these courses provide an “innovative use of technology” to ensure students have access to “exceptional teaching” regardless of their geographic location.

- **It is the intent of Gem Prep for students to meet or exceed the state proficiency and growth average in English Language Arts and math** on state standardized assessments. Student academic outcomes are a key indicator of their readiness to complete rigorous coursework in subsequent years. Gem Prep will use the Idaho State Standardized Achievement Test (ISAT) to measure both growth and achievement for students. The Gem Prep mission statement emphasizes high-quality instruction, which is synonymous with academic growth and proficiency.
- **Gem Prep intends to enroll students in grades K-12th that roughly mirror the student population of local district demographics.** Gem Prep believes that a diverse student body enriches the education of all students and is essential to preparing students for a pluralistic world. It is also important to mirror the demographics of the surrounding district to demonstrate that Gem Prep successfully serves all students. Completion of this goal is currently tracked through the SIS, which tracks student demographics and through the SDE district report cards. Our mission to prepare students for success includes all students regardless of race, income, and special education status.

Key Educational Design Elements, Curricular, Tools & Instructional Methods

The key design elements of the Gem Prep model are as follows:

- **High Expectations and Rigor.** The school will be focused on 21st-century learning and critical thinking skills, as well as Common Core-alignment. Students will be prepared for post-secondary education through dual credit courses taken during high school and the alignment of curriculum with Common Core standards. The quality and rigor of student work is framed by competency-based standards planning and challenging learning objectives and assessments.
- **Personalization.** The school’s instructional model is built on the belief that each student brings unique strengths and challenges to their learning experience and must be supported accordingly. Student learning includes adaptive online learning programs, working toward informed post-secondary goals, and utilizing flexible time at the secondary level for self-directed learning. In the K-6 model, students often use a station rotation model, and the 7-12 model will use a flexible college-prep learning model. Differentiated instruction will occur at these pathways—online instruction, as well as elective courses. Teachers also do targeted small group instruction as a form of intervention and acceleration.
- **Data.** Gem Prep will be grounded in the importance of using data to drive instruction. The school will use formative assessment and other data to continually adjust instruction and necessary interventions.

- **Innovation.** Very much related to the above, the importance of continual improvement and innovation will be a focus for Gem Prep. The organization will constantly review performance data and make adjustments to the school model as necessary.

As with most innovation, Gem Prep realizes that adjustments and improvements are often necessary as these ideas are tested and put into practice in real-world settings. Gem Prep is committed to evaluating the academic impact of its instructional model and making any necessary adjustments in order to meet all academic goals. The School is committed to vigilance in ongoing assessments, evaluations, and adjustments to facilitate successful student outcomes.

Elementary School Model: Building on Best Practices

The elementary school model (Grades K-6) at Gem Prep (GP) is built around the following practices:

- **Rigorous, deeply supported learning.** Students are engaged in highly interactive learning environments designed to challenge each student. This rigorous learning environment necessitates a support structure to help students reach a high bar.
- **Data-driven instruction.** Teachers provide frequent formative assessments and are continually refining their instruction based on a careful review of student progress data.
- **Competency development.** GP schools incorporate non-academic competencies into their academic schedule. GP schools participate in the Panorama Ed assessment, which measures the mindsets, wellness, and belonging of students and staff. The schools performed so well on this survey that Harvard University sent a team to study what makes the schools stand out so substantially.
- **Scaffolded independence and leadership.** In the upper elementary grades, students have increased opportunities for student-centered learning, teamwork, and collaboration. Students grow in self-awareness and self-discipline as they prepare for their transition to the 7th grade.

Secondary Model: Cutting Edge Innovation

The Gem Prep secondary model is uniquely innovative both with regard to use of human capital and also redefining what students can achieve during their high school years. Key components of the Gem Prep secondary model include:

- **Access to high quality teachers across the state.** When necessary, students can access excellent teachers regardless of their location through the use of technology.
- **Exposure to diverse learning environments.** Secondary students at Gem Prep engage in both online and in-person learning. By learning in these varied ways, students develop the skills to communicate and work in a variety of environments.
- **Tuition Free Early College.** Gem Prep students pursue either a full two-year associate's degree or an 18+ college credit pathway during their high school experience at Gem Prep. The Gem Prep model is strategically structured to cover college costs so that students do not pay for their college tuition costs while in high school.

- **Advisory.** Students participate in an advisory program throughout their time with Gem Prep. For grades 7-10 the content of advisory is structured around non-academic skills such as goal setting, time management, and communication skills. In 11th and 12th grade the advising program shifts its focus to college applications, FAFSA, scholarship applications, college visits, program research, resume development and improvement.

By individual design encompassing a variety of education tools (virtual classrooms, dual credit courses, on-campus face-to-face instruction, fluid schedules, study blocks, etc.) students are able to create an educational framework that meets their personal skills, abilities, and interests, and which facilitates their progression toward their own goals.

The Gem Prep brick and mortar schools that are currently operating have demonstrated a track record of success. In every Gem Prep school, Math & Science proficiency levels on the ISAT are significantly higher than the local districts. Collectively, the percent of Gem Prep students who are proficient or above on the ISAT is above the state average in every subject. According to the NWEA MAP assessment, Gem Prep Meridian (the nearest GP school to GPMS location) students are in the 82nd %ile in ELA and 78th %ile in Math in the nation for proficiency. (*See Appendix F5: Gem Prep Assessment Results.*)

Curriculum

Gem Prep believes that access to high-quality learning materials is central to the effective instruction of students. Accordingly, the school seeks to adopt a rigorous, sustainable, evidence-based curriculum that provides students with optimal access to information and learning opportunities. Gem Prep curriculum aligns to national and/or Idaho Content standards, which define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education. Gem Prep has established rigorous performance objectives, and additionally ensures each curricula meets the following qualifications: (a) rigor meets or exceeds common core state standards; (b) curriculum is research and evidence based.

All Gem Prep core academic curriculum undergoes an extensive review process by the curriculum adoption committee. This committee reviews the curriculum on an annual basis to ensure core academic content meets or exceeds content standards and maintains research-based efficacy for their specific student demographic (Idaho Administrative Rules IDAPA 08.02.03.102).

Gem Prep's proposed ELA (English Language Arts) curriculum is All About Reading for Kindergarten, Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts for grades 1 and 2, ReadyGEN for grades 3-6, and Pearson MyPerspectives for grades 7-11. Gem Prep will also provide all K-6 students with individualized ELA intervention and enrichment through the computer-adaptive reading program, Istation. Each curriculum has been strategically selected for each grade or grade band to provide many opportunities for rich and rigorous evidence-based discussions and writing about texts to build strong literacy skills. Students build skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and they integrate language work throughout. These researched and reviewed curriculum meets rigorous expectations in both alignment and usability ratings ([EdReports, 2019](#)).

Gem Prep's proposed Math curriculum is Zearn Math for grades K-5, Illustrative Mathematics for grades 6-8, and Pearson Envision Math for high school students. Each curriculum allows students

to learn across multiple instructional formats, rotating between learning independently with self-paced digital lessons and working with their teacher and classmates in a small group. Research indicates each curriculum successfully increases student understanding and proficiency in mathematics. These mathematics curricula meet rigorous expectations in both alignment and usability ratings ([EdReports, 2019](#); [Sharma & Hasim, 2019](#); [Tabrah, 2018](#)).

Gem Prep's proposed science curriculum, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Science Fusion, is designed to use technology to best meet learners' needs—to be flexible, to allow for interaction, to be engaging and motivating, and to reach a wide range of learning styles, employing visual, kinesthetic, auditory, and verbal modes and abilities ([Resendez & Azin, 2013](#)).

Gem Prep's proposed Social Studies Curriculum is MyWorld Social Studies curriculum. In preparing scholars to be college and career ready, MyWorld aligns with the new framework for social studies instruction, known as the C3 Framework, to help educators expand social studies and civic education in the classroom. MyWorld aligns with Idaho Content Standards ([Pearson, 2013](#)).

To meet Gem Prep's performance objectives and gain experience communicating and learning in a variety of ways, students take courses in three different course formats: (a) in-person classes, (b) online classes, and (c) virtual classes through live video teleconference systems in a send-receive model. Select classrooms are equipped with video teleconference equipment to facilitate send/receive courses. All students interact with digital content using Chromebooks. Gem Prep utilizes the learning management system, [Canvas](#), to design content for all core classes in grades K-12. Canvas provides a consistent framework for instructional delivery, assessment, and access to academic progress for all students in grades K-12.

In addition to Gem Prep's use of a learning management system, the school will also use computer adaptive technology to provide individualized learning. Computer adaptive programs, such as Zearn and Istation, assess each individual student and adapt the activities and assessment questions based on the student's response. Based on the student's assessment results and individual abilities, students are able to individually engage with digital activities daily.

Gem Prep also utilizes technology to support safe, equitable, and positive classroom environments such as [Class Dojo](#) and [GoGuardian](#). Class Dojo is a digital management program teachers use to communicate with elementary students and their parents. Student behavior is tracked and celebrated, student portfolios and grades are shared with parents, and staff members are able to share daily messages, videos, tutorials, updates, and pictures with students and families in a secured digital application. GoGuardian provides teachers and administrators access to observe student technology use, which facilitates students staying on task to maximize learning time. The program is also a security system to ensure students are only accessing safe and appropriate academic content when they engage with digital learning.

The school chooses to utilize autonomies in three central categories: (a) acquisition and retention of high-quality teachers, (b) innovative, individualized instructional models, and (c) development and implementation of college-ready competencies. Gem Prep students deserve the best teachers and staff. Accordingly, Gem Prep developed a thorough hiring process and offers all teachers a 1-year contract. This ensures that students have consistent access to teachers who thoroughly support the development of all students in Gem Prep's college preparatory model.

To meet Gem Prep’s rigorous performance objectives, the school uses an instructional model with a variety of course formats to meet the individual needs of their unique population. Student learning is additionally enhanced through differentiation via blended learning, adaptive technology, and grade and subject acceleration.

Per ESEA 4310, Gem Prep has identified a specific set of educational objectives, which include the development of the Gem Prep Graduate Profile and implementation of college-ready competencies. All students should have access to a high-quality education built upon a strong academic, social, and emotional foundation. Gem Prep provides all kindergarten students with tuition-free, full-day kindergarten, to begin laying this critical foundation. All students begin building their college competencies in kindergarten with their K-12 graduate profile focused on the following areas: (a) college planning and saving, (b) evidence of college-ready competencies, (c) college and career coaching, (d) academic growth, (e) social/emotional development, and (f) self-advocacy.

Estimate of student time spent in each of the learning modalities

The charts below are sample weekly schedules for Grade 1, Grade 8, and Grade 10. The schedules illustrate approximately how much time students will spend in each of the learning modalities during a given week.

In addition to core instructional time, students participate in weekly learning activities such as:

- **CSC—Caring Schools Curriculum** for social and emotional education. This time is dedicated to students developing skills such as empathy, taking responsibility for their actions, and showing respect for others.
- **GEM CIRCLE**—This student led time is dedicated to addressing any concerns that may exist between classmates in constructive ways. Students also commend one another for any actions that exemplify the Gem Prep culture.
- **W.I.N. TIME**—“What I Need” Time is an opportunity for teachers and paraprofessionals to work with students in small groups to address specific standards students are struggling to meet. This is also a time for advanced students to receive enrichment.

During the Wednesday early release, students have a menu of opportunities to further their learning. Students can participate in on-campus extracurricular activities (like student council, math club, STEM club, etc.), attend College Prep Academy to take advantage of tutoring services, or they may be released to go home.

SAMPLE GRADE SCHEDULE: GRADE 1

Grade 1: Gem Prep						
	M	T	W	TH	F	
7:30-7:55	Teacher Prep					
8:00-8:05	Attendance					
8:05-9:05	ELA: Skills Lesson (Foundational & Reading)					
9:05-9:35	ELA: Intervention Groups					
9:35-9:55	Recess					
9:55-10:55	ELA: Knowledge Lesson (Read Aloud & Writing)					
10:55-11:15	Math: Launch					
11:15-11:35	Lunch Recess					
11:35-11:55	Lunch					
11:55-12:30	Math: Station Rotations					
12:30-1:00	Math: Station Rotations					
1:00-1:15	Math: Station Rotations or CRQ Intervention		Math: Station Rotations or CRQ Intervention	Math: Station Rotations or CRQ Intervention		
1:15-1:30						
1:30-2:00	Science		Professional Development 1:45-3:45 Gem Service 1:30-2:30/ College Prep Academy 1:30-3:30	Social Studies		
2:00-2:30	Library/ Art (rotate)	Electives (Common Prep Time)		Electives (Common Prep Time)	Keyboarding/ ASL (rotate)	
2:30-2:50	Counselor	Student Choice Reading/ Data Conferences		Student Choice Reading/ Data Conferences	Gem Circle	
2:50-3:10	Student Choice Reading/ Data Conferences	CSC Lesson or Counselor		Student Choice Reading/ Data Conferences		
3:10-3:25						
3:25-3:30	Pack-up				Pack-up	
RELEASE	Release Begins at 3:30 (1:30 on Wednesday)					

SAMPLE GRADE SCHEDULE: GRADE 8

Grade 8: Gem Prep					
	M	T	W	TH	F
7:30-7:55	Teacher Prep				
8:00-8:50	1st Period: IDLA Careers		8-8:45 IDLA Careers	1st Period: IDLA Careers	
			8:50-9:35 SS		
8:55-9:50	2nd Period: Social Studies		9:40-10:25 IDLA Pathways	2nd Period: Social Studies	
9:55-10:50	3rd Period: IDLA Pathways to Suc		10:30-11:15 English	3rd Period: IDLA Pathways to Suc	
10:55-11:50	4th Period: English		11:20-12:05 Science	4th Period: English	
11:55-12:50	5th Period: Science		12:10-12:40 Lunch	5th Period: Science	
12:55-1:25	Lunch			Lunch	
			12:45-1:30 Math		
1:30-2:25	6th Period: Math 8		Development 1:45-3:45 Gem Service 1:30-2:30/ College Prep Academy 1:30-2:30 & 2:30-3:30	6th Period: Math 8	
2:30-3:25	7th Period: College Prep			7th Period: College Prep	
3:25-3:30	Leadership Opportunity			Leadership Opportunity	
RELEASE	Release Begins at 3:30 (1:30 on Wednesday)				

SAMPLE GRADE SCHEDULE: GRADE 10 AA Pathway

Grade 10 Associates Degree					
	M	T	W	TH	F
7:30-7:55	Teacher Prep				
			8-8:45 Geometry		
8:00-8:50	1st Period: Geometry		8:50-9:35 English 10	1st Period: Geometry	
			9:40-10:25 SAT		
8:55-9:50	2nd Period: English		Prep/Elective	2nd Period: English 10	
	3rd Period: SAT Prep/ DC Elective		10:30-11:15 DC Electives	3rd Period: SAT Prep/ DC Elective	
	4th Period: Dual Credit Electives		11:20-12:05 IDLA Foreign Language	4th Period: Dual Credit Electives	
10:55-11:50	5th Period: IDLA Foreign Language		12:10-12:40 Lunch	5th Period: IDLA Foreign Language	
12:55-1:25	Lunch		12:45-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-2:25	6th Period: Advisory		DC Electives	6th Period: Advisory	
2:30-3:25	7th Period: DC Electives		Professional Development	7th Period: DC Electives	
3:25-3:30	Leadership Opportunity		1-45, 3-45 Gem	Leadership Opportunity	
RELEASE	Release Begins at 3:30 (1:30 on Wednesday)				

SAMPLE GRADE SCHEDULE: GRADE 10 18+ Pathway

Grade 10 18+ College Credits					
	M	T	W	TH	F
7:30-7:55	Teacher Prep				
			8-8:45 Geometry		
8:00-8:50	1st Period: Geometry		8:50-9:35 English 10	1st Period: Geometry	
			9:40-10:25 SAT		
8:55-9:50	2nd Period: English 10		Prep/Elective	2nd Period: English 10	
	3rd Period: SAT Prep/Elective		10:30-11:15 Biology	3rd Period: SAT Prep/Elective	
	4th Period: Biology		11:20-12:05 IDLA Foreign Language	4th Period: Biology	
10:55-11:50	5th Period: IDLA Foreign Language		12:10-12:40 Lunch	5th Period: IDLA Foreign Language	
11:55-12:50	Lunch		12:45-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-2:25	6th Period: Advisory		DC Electives	6th Period: Advisory	
2:30-3:25	7th Period: DC Electives		Professional Development	7th Period: DC Electives	
3:25-3:30	Leadership Opportunity		1-45, 3-45 Gem	Leadership Opportunity	
RELEASE	Release Begins at 3:30 (1:30 on Wednesday)				

When students are working in asynchronous blocks, they will be supported by certified teachers and/or paraprofessionals providing tutoring, course assistance monitoring, etc. This additional structure assists students with necessary tools, time management and support, and also provides a level of expertise and encouragement toward student success.

Strategies for Serving Special Populations

Gem Prep believes that all students deserve and can succeed in an atmosphere of high expectations. However, many students need additional support to succeed in such an environment. A Response to Intervention (RTI) system will be implemented at Gem Prep to identify and intervene with students who struggle academically or behaviorally while the challenges are still relatively small. Teachers are trained in and expected to utilize interventions for students who need additional support. Further, secondary students meet with their college preparatory advisory class to learn non-academic competencies such as goal setting, mindsets, and habits of success. The teacher for the class also meets individually with students to review their future goals, their progress toward previous goals, and to reflect on progress since the last meeting. During this time, the teacher checks key indicators with the students (such as grades, behavior data, and attendance) and provides assistance or direction for the student. This is another place where students who face unique contextual challenges can get help or can be referred for additional help. The teacher's role is to intervene and assist before problems have snowballed, but also to provide a place for the student to reflect and improve.

Teachers norm around a definition of rigor and what it looks like in the classroom. Teachers are trained in equitable instruction to ensure that students from educationally disadvantaged circumstances are provided the same intellectual rigor as every other student, even if they need additional support. If an assignment, question, or activity would be given to a classroom of gifted and talented students at a high-priced private school, then it might be worthy of Gem Prep students as well. With this visualization, Gem Prep teachers are asked to hold the bar high for all students, but provide robust support for students who struggle. Some students may even need behavioral or academic intervention plans, and teachers, parents, and administrators are expected to fully integrate these plans.

The school provides a full continuum of services for students who require special education services. Students in need of intervention services are identified as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Once identified, the student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP) team establishes the necessary intervention strategy. The IEP team consists of the classroom teacher, a special education teacher, parents, and an administrator. The team first considers support options, which allow students to spend as much time as possible with peers who do not receive special education services (LRE: Least Restrictive Environment).

After determining what appropriate services and supports can be provided within the regular classroom, supplementary aids and interventions may be provided within the special education classroom, based on each student's unique needs. Gem Prep's special education focus is always on the student's abilities and not their disabilities. Gem Prep provides services for students as determined by the IEP, such as speech and language services, counseling, behavioral intervention, school-based occupational therapy, psychological services, etc. Gem Prep's special education staff meet, or exceed, the requirements as outlined by the Idaho State Department of Education. They undergo continuous professional development to persist in meeting the needs of students with disabilities at a high level.

Gem Prep will plan and budget to provide certified special education teacher(s) and other personnel with physical facilities that are appropriately accessible to permit access by students with disabilities. GP will also provide funding and contractual arrangements to ensure that Gem Prep students with disabilities will receive special education and services as required in IDEA and outlined on the students' IEPs.

Gem Prep will provide transportation for special needs students if it is determined that this is necessary to provide for a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

Professional Development Plan

Gem has developed a strategic model to support staff development, evaluation, and retention. This framework places emphasis in the following areas: (a) New staff onboarding, (b) intentional culture building, (c) ongoing, differentiated, relevant professional development, (d) aligned observation and coaching practices, and (e) Gem Prep leadership pipeline. Gem Prep believes in the importance of high-quality professional development for all team members, especially new practitioners. Because of this belief, the network schedules professional development for all new and returning staff prior to the beginning of each school year. This professional development time is dedicated to onboarding and unifying all staff by: (a) Introducing and updating staff on curriculum, (b) aligning individual, school, and network goals, (c) clarifying staff and student expectations, (d) providing work time for grade, school, network, and vertical alignment, (e) training and practice of Common Pictures of Excellence, (f) developing collective lesson plans and practicing instruction and, (g) building positive school and network cultures of trust and support.

Gem Prep recognizes the importance of cultivating positive student, staff, classroom, school, and community culture. The school has implemented three specific strategies to build and support positive culture: (a) Aligned network culture guide, (b) Gem Staff and Student Circle, and (c) scheduled time for social-emotional learning curriculum. The Gem Prep Culture Guide outlines school values, expectations, and steps of celebration and restorative justice. The principal holds Gem Circle at least once per month with all staff during building-level professional development time. The purpose of Gem Circle is to practice mindfulness, encourage a culture of unity and celebration, and support positive lines of communication through conflict resolution. Gem Prep teachers hold Gem Circle with their class at least once per week as well, focusing on the same purpose. Gem Prep also schedules allotted weekly time to teach the evidence-based social-emotional curriculum. The purpose of this time is to encourage practices of mindfulness, develop growth mindsets, and cultivate social/emotional personal competencies.

Gem Prep utilizes ongoing professional development to meet their rigorous performance objectives. In addition to the professional development at the beginning of the year, the network also dedicates time during student early release days for professional development. Weekly PD focuses on reviewing scholar work, evaluating data, intellectual preparation of lesson plans, and culture building through Gem Circle and building-level meetings. Full PD days scheduled periodically throughout the school year provide multiple learning pathways for individual needs based on observation results, student achievement data, administrative input, and staff and student feedback. Practitioners are provided the opportunity to self-select relevant PD aligned with their strengths, areas of opportunity, and educational trends.

Gem Prep believes Common Pictures of Excellence (CPE), aligned observation practices, and strategic coaching strategies lead to instructional fidelity, excellence, and student achievement. CPE provides clear and aligned expectations of what excellent instruction and, more importantly, excellent learning looks like. The CPE define and detail instructional strategies and procedures such as: (a) hallway behavior, (b) learning posture, (c) response strategies, (d) habits of discussion, (e) annotating text, (f) classroom and school transitions, (g) read aloud routines, and (h) partner work. CPE provides aligned management and instructional strategies to create safe, academically focused learning spaces. Because Gem Prep utilizes CPE, administrators are able to align observation rubrics, expectations, practices, and coaching strategies. Gem Prep administrations, including network leadership and building leadership, meet regularly to review videos of Gem Prep teaching instruction, calibrate evaluation criteria, develop collective active steps, and practice coaching scripts and strategies. This alignment of expectations, observations, and coaching ensures implementation fidelity of the educational model.

Section II: Financial and Facilities Plans

Fiscal Philosophy and Spending Priorities

The Gem Prep board and staff believe that thorough financial training, expertise, and accountability are all essential elements of a successful school. For that reason, Gem Prep employs staff experienced in successful financial management. Financial reports are reviewed each month as part of the board data dashboard. Gem Prep seeks to always have at least two board members with financial expertise, who serve on the Board Finance Committee. The finance staff attends regular training to keep their knowledge current and to stay abreast of any changes in the law or financial practice.

The Board is confident in the financial projections due to their grounding in current Gem Prep schools. While the approach is always to budget conservatively, Gem Prep also bases the financial projections on historical data and experience with existing Gem Prep schools. Gem Prep's spending priorities are focused on student investments, particularly on staff and instructional programming. Every expenditure is evaluated on how it impacts student outcomes.

One indicator that is of particular importance is the fund balance. The Gem Prep board of directors believes maintaining a healthy fund balance is essential to the preservation of the financial integrity of the school. A healthy fund balance provides stability to students and staff through unanticipated interruptions in cash flow, changes in funding formulas or other regulations, emergencies, the ability to invest in opportunities, and meet the long-term goals of the school and organization. As a demonstration of our commitment to this philosophy, the organization's brick and mortar Gem Prep Schools have an average of 3.97 months of operating reserves. The fund balance is one of the standards against which the school's fiscal performance can be judged.

Transportation and Food Service Plans

Transportation

Gem Prep understands the importance of providing student transportation, therefore Gem Prep plans to offer student transportation in their first year. Gem Prep plans to contract with a bus service for transportation. The school will follow all state reporting requirements for transportation. A formal bid process as outlined by the Idaho State Department of Education and Idaho Code will be followed. Transportation will be provided to the student population as outlined in Idaho Code.

Students with special needs will be provided transportation in accordance with the requirements of state and federal law. A student's IEP will determine if transportation is required and the best method of transportation. All transportation will adhere to the IDEA. Transportation of field trips, excursions, and extracurricular activities will be provided by the school through contracted services and supported through donations from families, as well as philanthropic avenues.

Food Services

Gem Prep believes that no child should go without food and intends to provide a lunch program to students. Gem Prep is currently investigating two options for implementing the lunch program.

Option 1:

Similar to other Gem Prep schools, the school may contract with the District to provide meal planning and meals to the school. Under this option Gem Prep would submit an application to be part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The school's operations team will manage all reporting requirements, FRL forms, direct certifications, and lunchroom and serving staffing.

Option 2:

NNU/Sodexo has shown interest in providing meals to the school. Though this option may not include participation in the NSLP, the school intends to offer free and reduced lunches to those who qualify. Similar to Option 1 NNU/Sodexo would provide the meal planning and meals. The operations team will manage all reporting requirements, FRL forms, direct certifications, and lunchroom and serving staffing.

If Gem Prep participates in the National Lunch Program, free and reduced data will be collected annually by individual FRL forms and/or through Direct Certification. The forms will be collected at the beginning of each school year. Gem Prep will pursue receiving a high percentage of respondents to the FRL survey. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches will be offered lunch for free or at a reduced price, whether or not the school participates in the NSLP program. Gem Prep will only choose the option of providing a lunch program without NSLP reimbursement if it is sustainable within the constraints of the budget.

Families will be notified about the nutrition options through various communication avenues such as on-campus events like 'back to school night', as well as through an in-house announcement TV screen, social media, flyers, teacher newsletters, principal newsletter, emails, etc.

Financial Management and Monitoring Plan

Gem Prep has developed a sustainable and comprehensive operational and financial plan including curriculum, technology, staffing, facilities, and support services. The network of Gem Prep schools shares administrative and business services in order to direct financial resources towards supporting the Gem Prep college preparatory model.

The Board of Directors is a seasoned group of professionals with expertise in areas such as finance, law, real estate, and governance. Further strengthening the board, the current board chair has five years of governance experience with Gem Prep schools, and the vice-chair has 10 years. In addition, the leadership team has successful experience operating other Gem Prep schools. (*See Appendix F3: Leadership Team Resumes.*)

Gem Prep will comply with the financial reporting requirements of Idaho Code Section 33-701 (5-10). The Board will have prepared and published, within one hundred twenty (120) days from the last day of each fiscal year, an annual statement of financial condition and report of the school as of

the end of such fiscal year in a form prescribed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to Idaho Code Section 33-701(5)(6).

Such annual statement shall include, but not be limited to, the amounts of money budgeted and received, and from what sources, and the amounts budgeted and expended for salaries and other expenses by category. The annual statement will be submitted to the State Department of Education and the charter authorizer as required by law.

The Board will present and discuss all financial matters at public sessions and will post all financial results, budgets, audits, contracts and disbursements electronically on the Gem Prep website. The Board will hold an annual public hearing where the budget is discussed in detail. The Board will post notices of all meetings in accordance with all applicable laws.

The school will place copies of all teacher contracts and vendor contracts on the school website. In addition, the school will place a listing of all disbursements on the website and make available all such information upon request.

Annually, Gem Prep will file with the State Department of Education such financial and statistical reports as may be required pursuant to Idaho Code Section 33-701(7). Gem Prep will destroy all claims or vouchers paid five years from the date the same was canceled and paid pursuant to Idaho Code Section 33-701(8).

Gem Prep will review the school budget periodically and make appropriate budget adjustments. Amended budgets shall be submitted to the State Department of Education pursuant to Idaho Code Section 33-701(9).

Gem Prep will invest any money coming into the hands of the school in investments permitted by section 67-120 of the Idaho Code.

The Executive Director and CFO compile a proposed budget based on the state funding formula with input from principals and department administrators. The CFO will present the proposed budget to the Board Finance committee. After the budget is developed, Gem Prep will publish a budget hearing notice per Idaho Code. The finance committee then recommends the final budget for adoption to the Board of Directors. Gem Prep posts the approved budget on the school's website and submits a copy to SDE.

The board of directors will be responsible for the financial management of Gem Prep. The board of directors' role in financial management will include, but is not be limited to the following:

- Establishment of operating and capital budgets.
- Long-term financial planning and preparations.
- Monthly review of budget-to-actual financial performance providing for adequate oversight of financial performance and the opportunity to adjust expenditures as necessary to ensure operation within budget.
- Monthly review of cash flow projections.
- Establishment of internal financial policies consistent with the requirements of state law and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles to provide for adequate financial controls.

(Appendix A1: Financial Summary, Appendix A2: Pre-Opening Budget, Appendix A3: Three-Year Operating Budget and Break-Even Year 1 Scenario, Appendix A4: Cash Flow Projection for Initial Operating Year)

Facilities Plan

At full scale, Gem Prep: Meridian South will require approximately 43,000 square feet of space. The space breakdown is as follows:

Area	Size (sf)	Quantity	Total Size
Classrooms (K-6)	720	14	10080
Classrooms (7-12)	700	8	5600
SpEd Space	250	3	750
Gym	6700	1	6700
Cafeteria	2500	1	2500
Fab Lab	1150	1	1150
High School Commons	2500	1	2500
High School Collab Rooms	150	5	750
Admin, Reception, Conf.	1750	1	1750
Circulation, Kitchen, Bathroom, Storage, Tech (35% of total)	11220	1	11220
		Total:	43000

At the K-6 grade levels Gem Prep will require classrooms that will allow teachers and students the ability to move around and re-organize their room to accommodate the station rotation model. Each classroom will have access to high capacity wireless internet and Chromebooks for students. In high school, the facility will need to accommodate an open concept capable of adapting to the needs of the students and teachers. Common areas will be created with various learning pods to allow for student collaboration, project work, and students taking online classes. Each classroom will contain virtual teleconferencing equipment to accommodate the school's shared course model.

Gem Prep will assure that all facilities meet state and federal health and safety laws and meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The school leadership will comply with state laws to have annual safety inspections of their facilities and address any issues that are found during those inspections.

Gem Prep will remain in compliance with applicable state and federal guidelines as provided in Section 39-4130, Idaho Code, and the ADA. The School will provide certification that the facilities meet all requirements for health, safety, fire and accessibility for those with disabilities. Gem Prep

will continue to provide regular inspections of the facilities for health, safety and fire compliance and will provide copies of these reports upon request.

Gem Prep's school leadership has successfully secured facilities for other Gem Prep school startups and is aware that finding affordable facilities that can meet the programmatic needs of schools is an essential criterion for success. The school anticipates that securing affordable facilities may be one of the more challenging components of this plan. *(See Appendix F6 Letters of support.)*

Option 1

In the proposed budget, Gem Prep plans to purchase property and construct an approximately 36,000 sq. ft. facility with classroom space for K-12 grades, cafeteria (which will double as the gym), fab lab, common spaces, collaboration rooms, and admin space. Based on the most recent Gem Prep facility project, the total cost is approximately \$230 per sq. ft. The estimated total project cost is \$8,280,000. GPMS will continue to raise philanthropy dollars to fund the construction of the gym at a future date which the school estimates would cost \$1.5 million to construct the additional 6,700 sq. ft.

Option 2

In the event the school is able to secure grants or philanthropic support, Gem Prep will proceed with construction of the same plan as option 1 but include a gym. With the gym, the facility will be 43,000 sq. ft. and an estimated total project cost of \$9.89 million.

(Appendix A5: Facility Options Template)

Section III: Board Capacity and Governance Structure

Governance Structure

Gem Innovation Schools of Idaho, Inc. (GIS) will be the charter holder (the board of directors) and will govern Gem Prep: Meridian South, LLC, pursuant to GIS's existing Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Board Policies. Gem Innovation Schools of Idaho, Inc., is a non-profit organization organized and managed under the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act. The Corporation is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 ("IRS Code"), or the corresponding provisions of any future federal income tax code. GIS will be the sole member of Gem Prep (GP).

(Appendix B: GIS Articles of Incorporation, GIS Bylaws, GP Certificate of Organization, LLC, and GP Operating Agreement)

Board of Directors Responsibilities

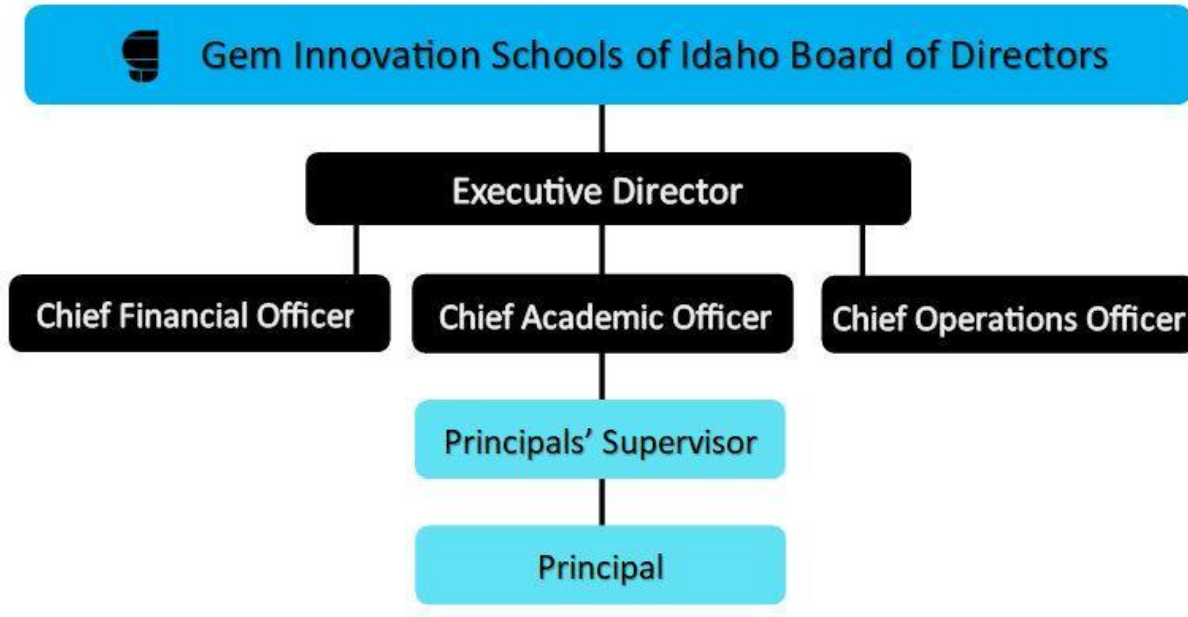
The Board will be responsible for the financial health of the school, managing the school's funds responsibly and prudently while prioritizing spending with consideration given to the school's mission, vision, and educational program goals. The Board will make every effort to establish financial practices and reporting that result in accuracy and transparency. Board members will participate in fundraising activities as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board. Board members will put the interests of the school first and will refrain from using the position for personal or partisan gain.

Board business conducted at Board meetings will be done per the bylaws and applicable laws (*See Appendix B Articles of Corporation & Bylaws*). Board members will commit to the ethical standards set forth in the Ethical Standards Agreement. The Board is to serve as the liaison between the school and the authorizing entity. (*See Appendix F4 Board Ethics Statements.*)

Relationship between the Board of Directors and School Administration

Gem Innovation Schools of Idaho Board of Directors is the governing board of the Gem Prep school and has ultimate control over the school and all employee and parent concerns. If a parent or employee has a concern, they will first attempt to resolve the issue with the principal. If the issue cannot be resolved with the principal, the parent or employee may attempt a resolution with the Chief Academic Officer and then the Executive Director. If their concern is still not resolved, it will be brought before the Board of Directors.

The organization chart below demonstrates the reporting and interaction structure for Gem Prep:



The Board of Directors is responsible for:

- Policy development and review
- The financial health of the school
- Administrative and operational oversight (not day-to-day operations)
- The legal affairs
- The adoption, advocating and oversight of the school budget, which is responsive to school goals and meets the needs of all students
- Conducting an annual self-evaluation of its own leadership, governance, and teamwork
- Communicating and interpreting the school's mission and other policy-related matters to the public and stakeholders
- Ensuring there is a supportive, smoothly operating leadership team, which advocates for both children and the community
- Selecting and evaluating the Executive Director

Executive Director works under the direction of the Board.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Implement the vision and mission of the school
- Recommend to the Board the hiring of personnel
- Fulfill state charter school requirements
- Insure Gem Prep meets the performance requirements outlined in the performance certificate
- Execute the policies of the Board
- Act as the intermediary between the Board and stakeholders
- Make recommendations to the Board on issues facing the school

Chief Financial Officer works under the direction of the Executive Director.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Monthly and annual financial reporting to the board and outside entities
- Budgeting
- Day to day financial operations and accounting
- Financial records
- Purchasing and contracts
- State reporting requirements
- Payroll
- Insurance
- Benefits
- Accounts Payable

Chief Operating Officer works under the direction of the Executive Director.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Facilities management
- Supervise school operations employee
- Transportation
- Nutrition
- Building security and student safety
- Technology

Chief Academic Officer works under the direction of the Executive Director.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Develop curriculum, instruction and assessment
- Recommend special services
- Develop and oversee professional development
- Supply annual educational reports
- State assessment planning
- Oversee hiring educational staff and provide recommendations

Principal Supervisor works under the direction of the Chief Academic Officer.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Supervise and evaluate school principals
- Create and oversee principal's professional growth plans
- Assists CAO with planning, implementing, and evaluating instructional programs
- Facilitate and support the development and implementation of innovative instructional programs

- Assists principal to develop, organize and implement models of intervention assistance for schools with low student achievement; and continuous improvement for schools with average-to-high student achievement
- Supports CAO in delivering written and oral presentations on academic accountability to various stakeholders
- Maintains liaison with professional civic, volunteer and other community agencies and groups

Principal works under the direction of the Principal Supervisor.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Parent and public relations
- Building school-wide community and culture
- Student and staff discipline
- Participate in curriculum development
- Supervise student scheduling
- Conduct all staff evaluations
- Provide teacher mentoring and coaching
- Resolve personnel issues
- Oversee substitute teacher roster, training and evaluation
- Student enrollment and records
- Attendance

Board Member Qualifications

The appointed Board of Directors will be legally accountable for the operation of Gem Prep. The school is committed to compliance with all federal and state laws and rules and acknowledges its responsibility for identifying essential laws and regulations, and complying with them. The board of directors not only seeks potential board members who support Gem Prep students but also who have the specific skill set needed on the board.

The Board of Directors is comprised of a talented and seasoned group of professionals and civic leaders. Board expertise and strength covers all necessary governance areas such as education, law, real estate, strategy, finance, management and community relations, etc. Further strengthening the board, the current board chair has six years of governance experience with Gem Prep schools, and the vice-chair has 11.

(Appendix C: Board of Directors and Petitioning Group)

Board Composition Profile & Terms of Service

Board Member Name	Education	Law, Compliance Operations	Real Estate Facilities	Strategy	Accounting Finance	Business Management	Politics, External Relations	Years of Service	Current Term
Dennis Turner, Chair			X	X		X	X	From 03/2014	6/30/21
Murray Stanton Vice Chair		X		X			X	From 05/2009	6/30/21
Jill Call	X				X	X		From 08/2012	6/30/22
Duncan Robb	X	X		X		X	X	From 09/2018	6/30/20
Roger Stewart	X			X			X	From 02/2016	6/30/20
Brian Trammell		X	X					From 12/2016	6/30/20
Emmett Wemp	X	X					X	From 12/2019	6/30/22

Transition Plan

A vital element in the plans for the Gem Prep school has been the governance of the GIS Board of Directors. The GIS Board has been governing multiple Gem Prep Schools for a considerable time and has been integral in the growth and development plans of Gem Prep. Therefore, a transition plan from a founding board to a governing board is not necessary.

Board Member Recruitment and Training

Recruitment and nomination of potential new board members is the responsibility of the board's Governance Committee. When recruiting, the committee leverages professional networks, as well as the connections of staff, teachers, parents, and community members. When less than two board members possess any categorized skills set, the committee identifies that skill as the recruitment priority. Further, if board members cannot be identified who possesses the necessary skills set, the

Committee recommends board training in order to develop expertise in that skill within existing board members. Board members must share a commitment to the mission of the school, and be willing to volunteer their expertise to ensure the school's success in fulfilling its mission.

GIS school board members are committed to continued development. The board believes strongly in seeking out relevant board training opportunities to assist in making Gem Prep a high performing college preparatory school, which prepares students for college, career, and citizenship.

Board members identify their greatest needs for professional learning. Once needs are identified, the board develops a professional development plan which provides opportunities for board members to advance their expertise, and to strengthen and deepen the board as a whole. The annual school budget includes funding for board training and development opportunities. Board members attend regular training such as the Idaho School Board Association's annual convention. They also attend the State Department of Education charter school workshops, which provide information about best practices and common challenges of charter boards. These workshops and training opportunities also provide critical networking connections for board members.

A New Board Members packet is provided to new board members. This packet contains information to help them understand what is involved in being a board member. Packets include, but are not limited to, the GIS Board Handbook, the school charter, roles and responsibilities, open meeting and record laws, state statute for charter schools, ethical standards, conflict of interest information, board policies, financial reports, and budgets. New members are also provided with educational materials relative to Gem Prep's educational model, such as webinars, books, and conferences, prior to appointment, and during their service on the board.

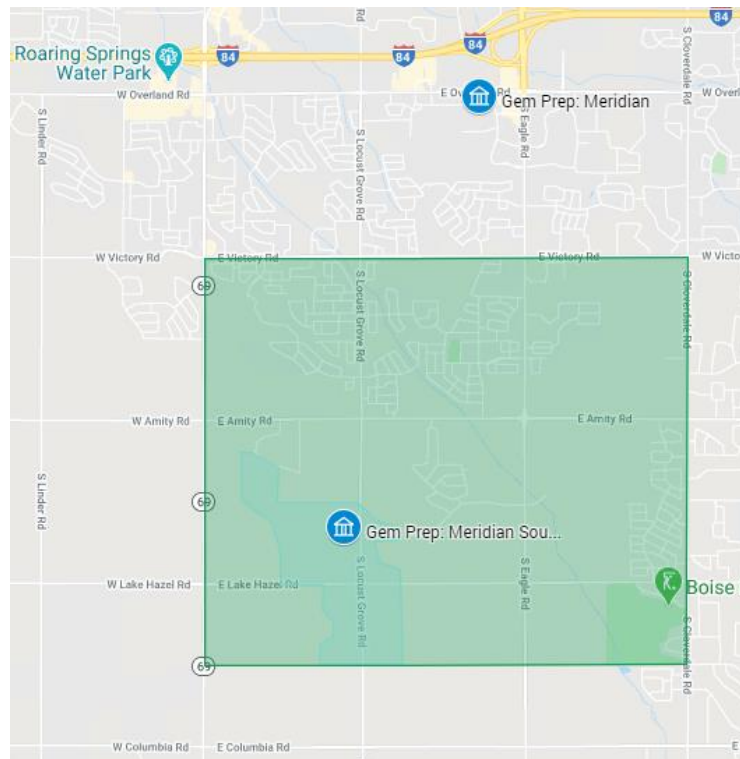
Section IV: Student Demand and Primary Attendance Area

Primary Attendance Area

The school will be physically located within the West Ada School District. Gem Prep's attendance area will include a portion of the West Ada School District as detailed in the map below. A more detailed view can be found at the following link: [GPMS Attendance Area Map](#).

Gem Prep: Meridian South's attendance boundary is outlined as follows:

From the centerline of the road, starting at the corner of E. Victory Rd and Meridian Rd, following Victory Rd east to the corner of Victory Rd and S. Cloverdale Rd. South on Cloverdale Rd to the junction with W. Hidden Valley Rim Rd. Then west following the southern boundary of the West Ada School District to Meridian Rd. Then north on Meridian Rd back to the corner of Meridian Rd and E. Victory Rd.



(See Appendix F1: Letter to Local Superintendent.)

Student Demand

Access for low-income students. The current Gem Prep Meridian school serves a student population of 48 percent low income students, as compared to the West Ada district overall that is approximately 25 percent low income. Attracting a diverse student population and serving them well is central to Gem Prep’s mission

Student success. While Gem Prep Meridian students serve a student demographic that represents a variety of backgrounds, Gem Prep students perform well when compared with the West Ada district.

Student Population Growth. The West Ada district is growing rapidly, and the proposed Gem Prep Meridian South should help relieve some of the district’s challenges to serve a rapidly growing population. The Meridian Southern Rim Coalition, an ad hoc group that advocates for thoughtfully managed planning and development in Meridian simply states, “Our schools are overcrowded.”

The West Ada schools that serve students in the GPMS attendance area are severely overcrowded due to the significant growth in the area. A large number of students who live within the primary attendance area are not able to attend their home school. The Meridian Press states Hillsdale Elementary school has surpassed its capacity of 650 by 160 students. “We haven’t been able to return those students to their home schools, just due to the fact that we’ve been growing faster than we’ve been able to build schools,” Hillsdale Principal Khristie Bair said¹. According to the SDE report card, Hillsdale Elementary has seen a 43.5% growth since 2017.

Mountain View High School (4 miles from the GPMS site,) serves the students in the GPMS attendance area. According to Eric Exline, Chief Communications Officer, West Ada School District Mountain View High School is over enrolled by 500 students².

Gem Prep: Meridian South should help alleviate some of the overcrowding and allow students to attend a K-12 school within their neighborhood.

Community Growth

The school plans to partner with the Brighton Corporation in the acquisition of land within Brighton’s new subdivision “Pinnacle”, a new mixed-use master planned community in South Meridian. Pinnacle will include approximately 2500 new homes and apartment dwellings along with several hundred thousand square feet of commercial space, including office, professional services, retail, community facilities and more. When fully developed, the school will be surrounded by the subdivision and will provide ample pedestrian access to the school from the neighborhood for local students to safely walk or bike to the property.

According to Compass Idaho, a community planning organization for southwest Idaho, by the year 2021, approximately 970 new residential units are projected to be built within a one-mile radius of

¹ [Meridian Press: Population Growth](#)

² [KIVTV News: West Ada District Combats Overcrowding](#)

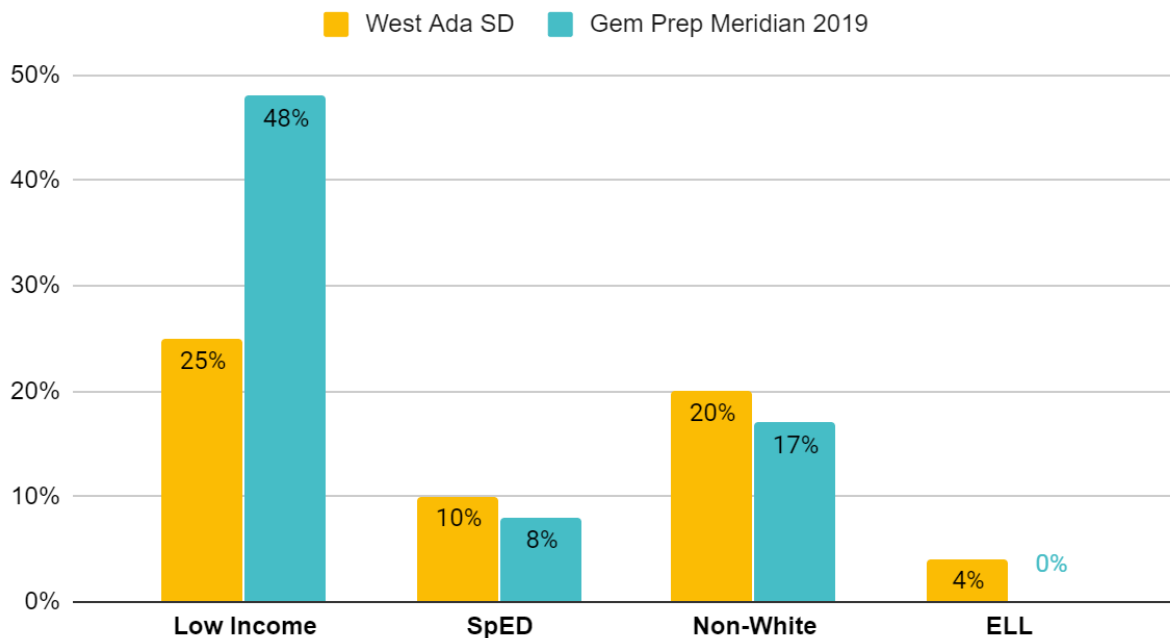
the proposed GPMS location. Expanding that radius out to two miles, an additional 894 new units are projected.

Further, West Ada School District's facilities plan indicates that the South Meridian area is projected to be one of the highest growth areas for school age children. Within two miles of the proposed GPMS location, WASD estimates there will be approximately 1,238 elementary students, 599 middle school students, and 725 high school students. These numbers do not account for the new Pinnacle subdivision. ([West Ada School District School Facility Plan](#))

Student Population

It is anticipated Gem Prep will mirror the student demographic population of the school district. Focused recruitment strategies will enabled GP's student demographic population to roughly reflect the school district's percentage of non-white, English Language Learner, economically disadvantaged (low income), and special education. Gem Prep schools attempt to mirror the population demographics of the community, and have historically served the same demographics as their surrounding district.

West Ada SD and Gem Prep Meridian 2019



Enrollment Capacity

Gem Prep's instructional model includes challenging each student at their comprehension level. One way Gem Prep does this is by placing students in the grade level of their comprehension, not necessarily in the grade level of their birth year. While this practice keeps students academically challenged, changing a student's grade level placement also creates challenges to keep within the grade level cap, which is the reason a schoolwide cap is necessary as opposed to a grade-level cap.

Gem Prep enrollment is capped at 676 students in grades K-12. The table below contains the grade-by-grade **plan** to grow to 574 students over five years. While the Board has a grade-by-grade plan that targets 574 students, the Board requests a single K-12 enrollment capacity of approximately 676. This approach allows the Board to adjust grade-level student numbers, within the 676 student cap, in order to assure availability for all current students who wish to re-enroll, in order to place students in the grade level of their comprehension, and in response to market needs. For the purpose of the lottery, no less than three months prior to GP's application deadline, the Board of Directors will establish the annual school-wide enrollment capacity not to exceed 676 students and an annual enrollment capacity for each grade level.

Gem Prep's Planned Growth

Grades	Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr.3	Yr. 4	Yr. 5
K	52	52	52	52	52
1	52	52	52	52	52
2	52	52	52	52	52
3	52	52	52	52	52
4	52	52	52	52	52
5	52	52	52	52	52
6		52	52	52	52
7		45	45	45	45
8		45	45	45	45
9			30	30	30
10			30	30	30
11				30	30
12					30
Total	312	454	514	544	574

GP recognizes the demand in the secondary level drops, which is why the growth plan above (which the financial plan is built upon) reduces down from 52 seats in 6th grade to 45 seats in grades 7-8, and then again to 30 seats in grades 9-12.

Community Partnerships and Local Support

The school continues to develop mutually beneficial relationships with local vendors, businesses, and community leaders. Below are examples of early or existing partnerships that will be leveraged for GP.

- **Dragon Fly Performing Arts:** Provides after school program for students and other children in the local community.
- **Young Rembrandts:** Offers arts classes on campus each week.
- **Idaho Dance:** Teaches ballet and hip-hop classes on campus.
- **Fowler Orthodontics:** Presents oral hygiene information to students.
- **Meridian Fire Department:** Provides fire safety and emergency training for students.
- **Independence Indoor Shooting Range:** Provides firearms safety courses to students.

GPMS expects to continue to develop partnerships with community-based organizations. Future organizations which may be the focus of partnerships include colleges, student support organizations, philanthropic supporters, and businesses whose interests align in supporting GPMS students.

Enrolling Underserved Families

Gem Prep has developed a student recruitment plan that intentionally enrolls a diverse student population. Branding was created by a professional designer, and messaging was created with the help of an experienced consultant to balance high expectations with robust support.

Gem Prep uses a variety of recruitment tools including social media, mailers, door-to-door campaigns, public forums, local preschools, and community events and groups. Student recruitment materials (also available in Spanish) feature students who represent racial diversity and a range of age levels. These materials make it abundantly clear that Gem Prep serves students at all academic levels, including special education students. Door-to-door efforts and mailers encompass a variety of neighborhoods, including those most likely to yield enrollment from students of color and of low-income. Social media parameters are narrowed to target these same neighborhoods and demographics. During the summer, Gem Prep staff attend events and activities intended for low-income families to inform families about school choice options. Strong demand currently exists for enrollment at Gem Prep from a regionally diverse student population.

Additionally, beneficial to underserved families, is the opportunity to take advantage of the tuition-free full-day kindergarten offered through GP.

Section V: School Leadership and Management

Leadership Team

The Administrative services will be provided by the school Administrators (state certification required), with support from the Board of Directors. Gem Prep will contract with another Idaho charter school, Gem Prep: Online, for professional services (*See Appendix F2: Professional Services Agreement Draft*). GPO will provide a seasoned charter school leadership team with over 15 years of experience who manage several Idaho charter schools including Gem Prep: Online (GPO), Gem Prep: Pocatello, Gem Prep: Nampa, Gem Prep: Meridian and Gem Prep: Meridian North. The team is augmented by a governance board, which provides expertise in all of the functions and areas needed to run a successful school.

The contract with GPO provides an Executive Director who reports directly to the Board of Directors and is responsible for the overall success of the school. The contract also provides for service of positions such as a Chief Academic Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer, who all report directly to the Executive Director (*See Appendix F2: Professional Services Agreement Draft*). The instructional leader of the school is the principal who reports to and is evaluated by a certified academic officer. All other school-level certified staff are evaluated by the principal. (*See Appendix D: School Administration and Organization Chart.*)

The school's management plan provides the school support from an executive team with a demonstrated track record of preparing students for success in college and beyond. The executive team is currently comprised of an Executive Director (CEO), CFO, CAO, and COO. The executive team manages curriculum development, instructional oversight, obtaining facility and facility financing, fundraising, professional development, preparing budgets and financial reports, back office support, human resources, overseeing special education, and marketing. This allows the principal to focus on the instructional leadership of the school. The principal's responsibilities include student academic success, building school community and culture, providing teacher mentoring and coaching, conducting staff evaluations, student discipline, and facilitating parent and community relations.

The board reviews key indicators on the school's data dashboard each month. Key indicators include enrollment, academic growth and achievement, financial stability, student demographic diversity, stakeholder satisfaction, and teacher turnover. Monthly reviews allow the board to proactively address concerns as they arise. If concerns arise, administrators may provide context or additional information to address those concerns. If the concern warrants additional action, the board may either send the concern to one of the committees or ask the administration to make a recommendation at the next meeting concerning a resolution. In addition, the Executive Director is evaluated annually on the performance of the school, which is informed by indicators outlined in the data dashboard. The Board of Directors will evaluate the Executive Director using an evaluation framework permissible by Idaho law. The Board will complete the evaluation of the administrator

once per year, as required by Idaho Code. The timeline of evaluation will follow Idaho Code and be written in policy adopted by the Board of Directors after the charter petition is approved.

The Executive Director, CAO, and CFO, are seasoned school leaders with experience managing charter schools. Operations are managed collaboratively by the COO and the school site operations manager. The CFO manages finances. The Executive Director, in collaboration with the school attorney, addresses legal matters.

The chart below outlines the experience and areas of expertise of the leadership team.
(See Appendix F3: Leadership Team Resumes.)

GEM PREP SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROFILE

School Leadership	Finance	Educational Programs	Education Innovation	New Schools Start-up	School Facilities	Governance & Law	Operations	Community Outreach	Development/Fundraising	School Administration	Distance Learning	Special Populations	Technology & Data
Jason Bransford, Executive Director	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Laurie Wolf, CAO		X	X	X		X				X	X	X	X
Lisa Pearce, CFO	X				X	X	X		X		X		
Brenda Pina, COO				X	X		X	X					
Josh Femreite, Chief of New Schools			X	X	X		X				X		X
Tera Reeves, College Access Director	X	X	X			X				X	X	X	X

Appendix D: Conditions of Authorization / Renewal

No conditions of authorization or renewal are applicable.









GPMS Performance Certificate

Final Audit Report

2020-10-15

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